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Dear producers and other data users:

Information contained herein is the result of mail, phone and personal interview surveys conducted during the past few weeks. Special recognition and appreciation are extended to all producers and agribusinesses who provided data making these reports possible.

Mark Harris
Mark Harris
Director

Nebraska Cattle on Feed Up 11 Percent

Nebraska feedlots with capacities of 1,000 or more head contained 1.75 million cattle on feed on August 1, up 11 percent from last year but 2 percent below August 1, 2002. Placements of cattle into feedlots during July totaled 310,000 head, down 11 percent from 2003 and 22 percent below 2002. Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 405,000 head, down 12 percent from last year and 18 percent below two years ago. Other disappearance during July totaled 5,000 compared with 10,000 last year and 5,000 during July 2002.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 3 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.85 million head on August 1, 2004. The inventory was 3 percent above August 1, 2003 but 3 percent below August 1, 2002. Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.72 million, 14 percent below 2003 and 7 percent below 2002. Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 1.93 million, 15 percent below 2003 and 12 percent below 2002. Other disappearance totaled 58,000 during July, 3 percent below 2003 but 29 percent above 2002.

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings and Other Disappearance, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots, by Month, State, and United States, 2003-2004

STATE	August 1 Number on Feed ¹			July Placements			July Marketings			July Other Disappearance ²		
	2003	2004	<u>2004</u> 2003	2003	2004	<u>2004</u> 2003	2003	2004	<u>2004</u> 2003	2003	2004	<u>2004</u> 2003
	1,000 Head	Percent		1,000 Head	Percent		1,000 Head	Percent		1,000 Head	Percent	
Arizona	271	294	108	32	32	100	26	31	119	1	2	200
California	485	520	107	66	65	98	67	60	90	4	5	125
Colorado	860	880	102	175	150	86	200	205	103	5	5	100
Idaho	240	235	98	56	43	77	70	47	67	1	1	100
Iowa	295	380	129	56	52	93	70	60	86	1	2	200
Kansas	2,180	2,120	97	570	520	91	540	475	88	10	15	150
Nebraska	1,570	1,750	111	350	310	89	460	405	88	10	5	50
New Mexico	116	127	109	21	22	105	17	17	100	3	2	67
Oklahoma	335	315	94	75	61	81	85	59	69	5	2	40
South Dakota	148	157	106	21	12	57	38	26	68	2	2	100
Texas	2,690	2,670	99	475	395	83	590	470	80	15	15	100
Washington	170	150	88	50	29	58	39	28	72	1	1	100
Other States	230	255	111	50	29	58	68	43	63	2	1	50
U.S.	9,590	9,853	103	1,997	1,720	86	2,270	1,926	85	60	58	97

¹ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

² Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

Source: USDA NASS Cattle on Feed, August 20, 2004.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter

July 2004 number slaughtered and changes from last year and last month are shown below. July 2003 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays. July 2004 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and five Saturdays.

Livestock Slaughter: By Commodity, Nebraska and United States, July 2004 with Comparisons

Item	Total ¹	July 2004 Percent of	
		July 2003	June 2004
Nebraska	<i>1,000 Head</i>		
Cattle, head	581.7	80	92
Hogs, head	547.1	101	98
Red Meat, mil. lbs.	561.7	85	94
United States			
Cattle, head	2,787.3	85	93
Calves, head	69.0	81	104
Hogs, head	8,094.8	100	95
Sheep & Lambs, head	220.8	92	96
Red Meat, mil. lbs.	3,707.6	92	94

¹ Excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Source: USDA NASS Livestock Slaughter August 20, 2004.

Stocks in Cold Storage: By Commodity, United States, July 2004 with Comparisons

Commodity	Stocks	July 2004 Percent of	
		July 2003	June 2004
1,000 Lbs.			
Total red meats	808,053	98	101
Beef	422,818	115	103
Pork	370,874	84	98
Poultry	1,320,430	97	98
Turkey	603,206	83	101
Chicken	716,252	113	95

Source: USDA NASS Cold Storage August 20, 2004.

Poultry: Layers and Eggs, Nebraska and United States, July 2004 with Comparisons

Item	2003	2004	2004/2003
<i>Millions</i>			
<i>Percent</i>			
Number of Layers			
Nebraska	11.7	11.6	99
30 States	311.8	319.3	102
United States	334.2	341.9	102
Eggs Produced			
Nebraska	273	267	98
30 States	6,913	7,053	102
United States	7,403	7,544	102
Chickens Hatched, July			
United States			
Egg-type	35.6	34.1	96
Broiler	777.8	806.8	104

Source: USDA NASS Chicken and Eggs August 23, 2004.

QUICK STATS ON THE CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE NOW AVAILABLE ON THE WEB

The United States Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the *Quick Stats* containing 2002 Census of Agriculture data on the Internet.

Quick Stats is an Online Agricultural Statistics Database and provides access to significant U.S. and State information. It provides the ability to query by commodity, State(s) and county(s). The query dataset can be downloaded for easy use in your database or spreadsheet. Census of Agriculture queriable datasets include farm numbers, land in farms, and average size of farm.

Also included in Quick Stats are datasets on other surveys and reports published by NASS. County level queries are limited to five years because the dataset may be very large. Some commodities and data items have historical series back to 1866.

To find *Quick Stats* online, go to the www.nass.usda.gov/census/ website, and then click on "Quick Stats" under the "Specialty Products" section.

Census printed publications are available for sale through the National Technical Information Service at 1-800-999-6779. Production, economic, demographic and environmental facts about U. S. agriculture are provided through regularly scheduled weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual reports. For additional agricultural information, visit NASS online at www.usda.gov/nass for aggregate facts and figures or call 1-800-582-6443.

Find agricultural statistics for your county, State, and the Nation at www.usda.gov/nass/.

Turkeys Raised Down 4 Percent from 2003

The preliminary estimate of turkeys raised in the United States during 2004 is 263 million, down 4 percent from the number raised during 2003.

The following six States are expected to account for about two-thirds of the turkeys produced in the United States during 2004:

Minnesota, at 46.5 million birds, is expected to raise the largest number of any state, and showing a 3 percent increase from last year.

North Carolina ranks second with 39.0 million birds, down 8 percent from 2003.

Arkansas is in third place by producing 28.0 million birds, 7 percent less than a year ago.

Missouri growers expect to produce 21.5 million birds in 2004, down 9 percent from the previous year.

Virginia, at 19.0 million birds is down 17 percent from 2003.

California expects to raise 16.0 million turkeys, 8 percent less than a year earlier.

Turkeys: Number Raised, Selected States, and United States, 2003 & 2004¹

State	2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>
Arkansas	30,000	28,000	93
California	17,300	16,000	92
Illinois	2,900	2,800	97
Indiana	12,800	13,100	102
Iowa	8,500	9,000	106
Michigan	5,000	5,000	100
Minnesota	45,000	46,500	103
Missouri	23,500	21,500	91
North Carolina	42,500	39,000	92
North Dakota	1,300	1,000	77
Ohio	5,500	5,700	104
Pennsylvania	9,500	12,000	126
South Carolina	12,000	12,000	100
South Dakota	4,600	4,500	98
Virginia	23,000	19,000	83
United States	274,048	262,950	96

¹ 2003 revised.

Source: USDA NASS Turkeys Raised, August 23, 2004.

Milk Cows and Production: By Month, 20 Selected States, 2003-2004¹

Month	Milk Cows ²		Milk per Cow ³		Milk Production ³		
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003
	<i>Thousands</i>		<i>Pounds</i>		<i>Million pounds</i>		<i>Percent</i>
January	7,810	7,716	1,615	1,619	12,616	12,491	99
February	7,811	7,716	1,489	1,528	11,628	11,787	101
March	7,810	7,717	1,666	1,658	13,014	12,798	98
April	7,800	7,721	1,627	1,630	12,693	12,588	99
May	7,787	7,722	1,671	1,684	13,013	13,007	100
June	7,785	7,742	1,596	1,603	12,428	12,410	100
July	7,780	7,753	1,597	1,613	12,421	12,505	101
August	7,771		1,571		12,207		
September	7,764		1,511		11,731		
October	7,743		1,561		12,083		
November	7,721		1,517		11,709		
December	7,713		1,596		12,313		
Annual	7,775		19,017		147,856		

¹ 2003 revised. ² Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. ³ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Source: USDA NASS Milk Production, August 16, 2004.

Farm Labor: Number and Wage Rates for Type of Workers and All Hired Workers, Selected Regions and United States, July 6-12, 2003 & July 11-17, 2004¹

Region ²	Hired Workers		Wage Rates						
			All Hired Workers		Type of work				
					Field		Livestock		Field & Livestock
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003 2004
	<i>Thousands</i>				<i>Dollars Per Hour</i>				
Lake	62	69	9.36	9.30	8.34	8.29	8.95	9.13	8.55 8.55
Cornbelt I	53	50	9.45	9.60	8.44	8.80	9.71	8.96	8.78 8.85
Cornbelt II	23	24	9.51	8.70	9.60	8.08	8.87	8.61	9.31 8.35
Northern Plains	37	39	8.52	8.86	7.89	8.24	8.79	9.22	8.15 8.52
Southern Plains	61	68	8.15	8.58	7.62	7.59	7.58	8.18	7.60 7.81
Mountain I	31	34	7.63	8.23	7.27	7.91	7.41	7.89	7.34 7.90
Mountain II	24	23	8.56	9.47	7.86	8.63	8.62	9.39	8.06 8.90
United States	943	953	8.88	9.10	8.17	8.42	8.57	8.75	8.26 8.50

¹ Excludes agricultural service workers. ² Regions consist of the following: Lake: Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin; Cornbelt I: Illinois, Indiana, Ohio; Cornbelt II: Iowa, Missouri; Northern Plains: Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota; Southern Plains: Oklahoma, Texas; Mountain I: Idaho, Montana, Wyoming; Mountain II: Colorado, Nevada, Utah.

Source: USDA NASS Farm Labor, August 20, 2004.

Prices Received By Farmers

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in August is 120, based on 1990-92=100, is 4 points (3.2 percent) below July index. Declines occurred in both the Crop Price Index and the Livestock Price Index. The Crop Index declined 2 points (1.7 percent) from July while the Livestock Index decreased 6 points (4.7 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for lettuce, tomatoes, strawberries, and cantaloup. Lower prices were received for

broilers, soybeans, dairy, and corn. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also effects the overall index. Increased average marketings of tobacco, cattle, grapes, and sweet corn offset decreased marketings of wheat, hay, dairy, and broilers.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 11 points (10 percent) from August, 2003.

Prices Received: By Commodity, Nebraska and United States, Preliminary August 2004 with Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Nebraska			United States				
		August 2003 ¹	July 2004 ¹	August 15, 2004	August 2003 ¹	July 2004 ¹	August 15, 2004	% of Parity	Parity Price ²
Wheat, All	Bushels	\$ 3.12	\$ 3.36	\$ 3.10	\$ 3.35	\$ 3.37	\$ 3.13	31	\$10.10
Corn	Bushels	2.09	2.57	2.35	2.15	2.51	2.27	33	6.79
Oats	Bushels	1.57	1.23	1.20	1.39	1.37	1.31	33	3.96
Grain Sorghum	Cwt.	3.52	3.84	3.55	3.93	4.27	3.87	35	11.00
Soybeans	Bushels	5.59	7.91	6.30	5.68	8.46	6.34	40	16.00
Hay, All, Baled	Ton	56.00	51.00	50.00	85.00	90.40	89.80		
Alfalfa, Baled	Ton	56.00	52.00	51.00	91.90	98.40	97.40		
Other, Baled	Ton	55.00	47.00	47.00	66.70	70.90	70.00		
Dry Edible Beans	Cwt.	18.80	17.30	16.90	18.00	19.30	20.00	38	52.30
Hogs	Cwt.	42.80	50.60	50.50	39.60	57.10	56.00	53	106.00
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	43.00	59.00	58.50	39.90	57.50	56.30		
Sows	Cwt.	33.50	58.80	58.30	32.60	49.20	49.40		
Beef Cattle	Cwt.	81.10	89.70	89.80	79.30	88.50	88.10	52	171.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	82.20	90.60	90.80	82.90	91.80	91.50		
Cows	Cwt.	45.00	60.70	57.60	44.50	56.30	55.50		
Calves	Cwt.	115.00	138.00	136.00	106.00	131.00	131.00	57	229.00
Sheep	Cwt.	26.00	37.60		29.20	37.40			84.20
Lambs	Cwt.	81.70	99.20		88.60	102.00			202.00

¹ Entire month average except hay which is mid-month.

² Parity price based on data for August 2004.

Source: USDA NASS Agricultural Prices, August 31, 2004.

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